

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 IO-13 SSM-03 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /085 W
-----121677 250421Z /64

R 241605Z JAN 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7061
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
USINT BAGHDAD
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CARIO
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS
RUQMHRXAMEMBASSY TEHRAN 727
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 1141

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: SOPN, IS, UR, US, XF
SUBJECT: SOVIETS WARM UP ATTACKS ON CAIRO AND U.S. MIDDLE EASTERN POLICY

1. THE SOVIETS HAVE STEPPED UP SIGNIFICANTLY THE LEVEL OF THEIR ATTACKS ON THE U.S. ROLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST WITH PONOMAREV'S STATEMENT IN HIS SPEECH ON CAPITOL HILL THAT THE U.S. HAS "UNILATERALLY RENOUNCED" THE U.S.-SOVIET JOINT STATEMENT. THIS IS THE MOST DIRECT AND AUTHORITATIVE SUCH ALLEGATION WE HAVE SEEN ON THE PUBLIC RECORD. THE U.S. POSITION IN THE MIDDLE EAST IS ALSO ATTACKED AS PART OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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A LONG MATVEYEV BROADSIDE IN IZVESTIYA OF JAN. 23 (REPORTED SEPTEL). MATVEYEV CLAIMS THAT SEPARATE EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS HAVE SET BACK WHAT HAD BEEN ACHIEVED BY THE JOINT STATEMENT AND THEN DECLARES THAT THE U.S. HAS "FULLY BLESSED" CAIRO'S STEPS.

2. IN AC OMMENTATOR'S COLUMN IN PRAVDA OF JAN. 24

ENTITLED "ON THE ROCKS," PAVEL DEMCHENKO USES THE BREAK-OFF OF EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI TALKS TO MAKE SOME OF MOSCOW'S STRONGEST ATTACKS ON EGYPT. DEMCHENKO DERIDES SADAT'S HOPE FOR U.S. HELP AND FOR A POSITIVE ISRAELI RESPONSE TO HIS INITIATIVES TO DEMONSTRATE THAT, DEPRIVED OF HIS NATURAL ALLIES (THE ARABS), SADAT FOUND HIMSELF FACED WITH AN INTRANSIGENT ISRAEL ISSUING ULTIMATUMS. SEPARATE TALKS, ACCORDING TO DEMCHENKO, WILL CONTINUE TO SET BACK THE CAUSE OF PEACE, WHICH CAN BE SERVED ONLY BY A GENERAL SETTLEMENT NEGOTIATED AT GENEVA.

3. COMMENT. WE ARE NOT CERTAIN WHAT INFERENCES ARE TO BE DRAWN FROM PONOMAREV'S CHARGE. CONSIDERING THE FORUM IN WHICH IT WAS MADE, HOWEVER, WE ASSUME THAT THE SOVIETS AT THE LEAST WANT TO CREATE CONCERN THAT THEY DO NOT FEEL BOUND TO COOPERATE WITH THE U.S. IN WORKING TOWARD A MIDDLE EAST SETTLEMENT.

MATLOCK

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Message Attributes

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TAGS: SOPN, IS, UR, US, XF
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